GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:815
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2000
INQUIRY INTO DEFECTIVE MINE BODIES
RAMJI MANJHI

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the composition of the Fact Finding Inquiry and the details of observations made out by it against the Army and Civilian officials;

(b) the rank of the civilian employees alongwith the job they were entrusted with;

(c) the details of other cases in DGQA recorded duringthe last three years in which Army Officers and the civilian employees were found involved and the action taken in each of the cases; and

(d) the steps taken to streamline the whole system in DGQA? ANSWER

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 815 23.11.2000.

The Fact Finding Inquiry into the acquisition of defective minebodies was conducted by an officer of the rank of Brigadier. The following are the major findings of the Inquiry Officer against the concerned Officers / Staff :-

(i) Senior Quality Assurance Officer (Col). He was responsible for repeatedly accepting the store in violation of Quality Assurance (QA) procedure. The specific violation is that of accepting the store in anticipation of test results.

(ii) Quality Assurance Officer/Officiating Senior Quality Assurance Officer (Lt.Col.)He was responsible for acceptance of store in violation of QA procedure. He was also responsible for recommending acceptance of stores in violation of QA procedure.

(iii) Senior Scientific Officer-I(Civilian). He was responsible for recommending acceptance of stores in violation of QA procedure and for his failure to report the irregularities on the part of the firm which were quite apparent.

(iv) Two Asstt. Foreman and one Chargeman-II(Civilian).These individuals posted at the firm or detailed there were responsible for ineffective material control at all stages of material procurement and its use in production line.

There were 6 other major cases in DGQA during the last3 years (1997-99) wherein irregularities/questionable acts involving both Army Officers and Civilian Officials were taken cognisance of. The details are given below :-

(i) In one case of generation of fake inspection documents pertaining to a particular store which was not actually dispatched by the firm after purported inspection, legal proceedings have been ordered to be initiated against an Army Officer (since retired) by Army Authorities by filing FIRas action under Army Act was time barred. Major penalty proceedings under Rule 14 of CCS(CC&A) Rules 1965 have been initiated against 3 Civilian Officials.

(ii) In the second case involving acceptance of substandard store, legal proceedings have been ordered to be initiated against one Army Officer (since retired) by the Army Authorities, by filing FIR as action under ArmyAct was time barred and minor penalty proceedings under Rule 16 of CCS(CC&A)Rules 1965 were initiated against another Army Officerand yet another was warned. Major penalty proceedings were also initiated against 2 Civilian Officials and another Civilian Officer was warned.

(iii) In the third case involving irregularities in recruitment, legal proceedings have been ordered to be initiated against one Army Officer (since retired) by Army Authorities, by filing FIR as action under Army Act was time barred. Advisory notes have been issued to two other Army Officers. Major penalty proceedings under Rule 14of CCS(CC&A)Rules 1965 have been initiated against one Civilian Official and yet another has been issued advisory note. Recruitment panels irregularly drawn have been set aside.

(iv) In the fourth case involving recruitment of a Junior Scientific Assistant-IIby diluting Qualitative Requirements, legal proceedings have been ordered to be initiated against one Army Officer (since retired) by Army authorities by filing FIR as action underArmy Act

was time barred. Major penalty proceedings under Rule 14 of CCS(CC&A) Rules, 1965 were initiated against two Civilian Officials and the services of the beneficiary Civilian Official were terminated.

(v) In the fifth case involving acceptance of defective stores, disciplinary action under Army Act has been initiated against three Army Officers and major penalty proceedings under Rule 14 of CCS(CC&A) Rules, 1965 have been initiated against 35 Civilian Officials.

(vi) In the sixth case involving questionable decisions of officials of AHSP on consignee end checks and cases referred by concerned Establishments, disciplinary action under Army Act has been initiated against 3 Army Officers and major penalty proceedings under Rule 14 of CCS(CC&A) Rules, 1965 have been initiated against 5 Civilian Officials.

The following measures have been introduced by the DGQA to streamline the existing system :-

(i) Inter disciplinary transfers of officials belonging to Army and civilians' at appropriate levels.

(ii) Quality Audit of Establishments.

(iii) Vigilance/Surprise checks at regular intervals.

(iv) Stricter control Sample inspection by AsHSP.

(v) Updating specifications/QA procedures.

(vi) Comprehensive training programmes for newly inducted officers & refresher / specialisation courses.